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19 September 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Geographic Research

SUBJECT: Language Requirement in B/GS

1. Attached is a list, by analyst concerned, of the languages that are needed for optimum performance of Division tasks. Only those languages in which a substantial amount of relevant source material occurs are listed.

2. In two instances, a language that is desirable cannot be related to a specific person or slot in the branch. These are German in the case of the Near East/Africa Branch, and German and French in the case of the Coordination Staff. It is not important who in these units possesses the language competence, but in both cases the availability of the competence is quite desirable. Effort by a member of the unit to secure the competence should receive recognition under the Language Awards Program.

3. The broader interests of the Division require a comprehensiveness and flexibility in language competence that the referenced list does not express. It is worthwhile, for instance, for [redacted] to know Swahili -- although not many unique materials are presently in this language -- simply because the competence adds to [redacted] potential value in either his current or subsequent related assignments. The same is true for [redacted] in the case of Latvian, which is not listed; or for [redacted] in the case of Hindi, Pashto, Burmese, Thai, or Cambodian; or for [redacted] in the case of Swahili. I hope that these considerations will be kept in mind to the end that the new approach to language training does not err in its rigidity as it previously erred in its generosity.

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[redacted]
Chief, Geography Division

Enclosure:
List of Requirements

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